



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

October 10, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

In October of 2000, after public review and comment, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy (FEIS). The FEIS analyzed and compared the major environmental differences between implementing the Comprehensive Strategy and not implementing the Comprehensive Strategy, as well as analyzed and compared a range of remedial action alternatives that address contaminated sediment sites in Bellingham Bay, including the Whatcom Waterway site.

Since completion of this document subsequent events and new information have resulted in the need to update previous analyses, as well as to analyze new remedial alternatives. Eight remedial alternatives for the cleanup of the Whatcom Waterway site plus a No Action Alternative are analyzed and compared in the attached Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Bellingham Bay Comprehensive Strategy, Whatcom Waterway Cleanup Site, prepared in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C). This Supplemental EIS is a companion document to the Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Whatcom Waterway site which is concurrently available for public review.

Key potential environmental impacts pertain to Geology, Water and Environmental Health; Fish and Wildlife; and Land Use, Shoreline Use and Recreation/Public Use. Many of the proposed remedial alternatives destabilize areas of the shoreline, eliminate existing habitat, and conflict with planned land uses resulting in net adverse impacts to the environment. Other alternatives stabilize areas of the shoreline, create new habitat, and are consistent with planned land uses resulting in a net beneficial impact.

Written comments on the Supplemental EIS will be accepted throughout the public comment period, which runs from October 10, 2006 to December 9, 2006. In addition, Ecology will provide information about the Supplemental EIS and the companion Supplemental RI/FS at two public meetings:

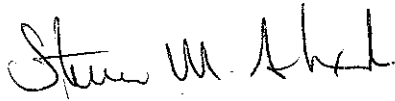
- October 26th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Bellingham Cruise Terminal, 355 Harris Avenue, Bellingham, WA
- November 30th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Bellingham Municipal Court, 2014 C Street, Bellingham, WA



The Supplemental EIS, the companion RI/FS and public comment on both documents will inform Ecology's preliminary selection of a cleanup alternative for the Whatcom Waterway site. This alternative will be further detailed and available for public review in a draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP). Following public review of the CAP, a final CAP will be issued with the final Supplemental EIS. The cleanup will then move forward into design permitting, construction and long-term monitoring.

For further information on the Supplemental EIS, please contact Lucy McInerney of Ecology at 425-649-7272, at the address above, or e-mail lpeb461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" being the most prominent part.

Steven M. Alexander
Toxics Cleanup Program Regional Manager

SMA:LM:nr